4201 Peachtree Place, Alexandria, VA 22304
Tel: (703) 751-9080

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Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Harold,

I was so pleased to have your letter after you had heard about my letter to Navatsky. I have followed your trail for so many years and have run into references here and there that speak of your work. I must say that they have been the backbone of a monster that otherwise would have been a jellyfish.

And that is my word for Navatsky. I can not think of anyone lower than a man who would have something published that was dishonest and then stick by it because he thought that it was in line with his policy. It is terrible to see these good old magazines corrupted by their new owners. I read the NATION as far back as the Thirties and always felt I could believe it. Now the NATION is not worth the paper it is printed on because of its owners and its staff.

I have been trying to fight the battle of the Kennedy Legacy for years. I must admit that I did not think he was the greatest President when he moved in to the White House. As I watched him, and I was quite close to him by 1963...with only one boss between him and me...I began to appreciate that he was laying plans for a great and most effective second term. His NSAM #55 was the key document and it was dated June 1961.

You speak of Gen Gavin confirming JFK's order to withdraw troops from Vietnam. I can give you more on that. Gavin was right. JFK sent Gen Krulak to Vietnam in Aug/Sep 1963. This gave Krulak the needed position to be able to set down Kennedy's policy for Vietnam. Then JFK sent Maxwell Taylor, then Chairman JCS and Robert McNamara, Sec/Def to Vietnam in Sep 1963. Their trip was for public display.

While they were gone JFK and his closest advisors gave their Vietnam policy to Krulak and ordered Krulak to write up, elaborately, the "McNamara-Taylor Vietnam Trip Report." Krulak and I worked around the clock, at JCS, with cots in the offices to do that Report precisely as it came from the White House.

When it was finished, printed on legal-size paper and bound in thick leather covers with JFK's name on it, illustrated, 2 to 3 inches thick, it [two copies] was flown to Hawaii in a jet fighter and given to Taylor and McNamara. They studied it as they flew back to Washington. As they landed on the White House lawn in a helicopter from Andrews Field, they carried this

Report and gave it to JFK. He read and approved "their" Report. It became the substance of NSAM #263. This was the most important of the JFK documents of the Vietnam era. It stated that 1000 troops would be out by Christmas, and despite his death they did come home. It stated that by the end of 1965 all Americans, not just all American military, would be home. That was to be his campaign issue of 1964.

NSAM #263 was published in early Oct 1963. Diem died--not as JFK had planned...JFK had sent a plane to fly the Diems to Europe--on Nov 1. The JFK cabinet...a majority of them...met in Honolulu on Nov 20, and were in flight to Tokyo on Nov 22. On Nov 20 their agenda, with Lodge, had been...not the JFK NSAM #263, but rather the LBJ agenda of Nov 26. In other words their agenda before JFK died was already a new agenda. They knew!

When you look at the amazing "Tramps" photos that were taken not long after the President had been killed, you will note in the first of those pictures, two phoney policemen and three tramps. Also in this first Tramps photo, the one with the Book Depository gate with big diamond shaped metal plates on the screen, you will see another man. This man seems remarkably unconcerned by the events taking place at his elbow. He doesn't even turn his head. But look at the middle "tramp."

This man, at this ominous time, being escorted to the Sherriff's office, has a trace of a smile on his face. He had just had eye-contact with the stranger. The "Tramps" have just been reassured by this stranger. They ought to be. This stranger is the man who planned and managed the entire scenario in Dallas, and who masterminded the enormous cover-up that has marked this "Crime of the Century" since. This man had sent me to the South Pole from Nov 10th to the 28th to get me out of his way (in case I might have been). This man in the picture is Edward G. Lansdale, not Oswald, not a Mafia Don and not Khrushchev.

So you see, your surmise about what Gavin said is correct and I am sure that you know it is all in the Pentagon Papers (Gravel) in Vol II. I know it well because I wrote so much of it.

You are correct. JFK's NSAM #263 policy was a big factor in why he was killed at the time he was killed. The seed of his death plot was planted earlier; but 263 was the "last straw."

I doubt that Navatsky will ever let me do an article for him, and I am not going to lose sleep over it. Your Dominican Republic account is on the mark. You may recall that in one of the quicker and quieter coup's d'etat in the Dominican a man named Donald Reed Cabral was made President. That coup was hatched in my office in the Pentagon. I put the four men on a plane at National Airport about 8:30pm that night and read that Reed was successful in the POST that next morning. Two of

the men involved in that still live here in Washington.

Thanks for the correction of my typo in the Navasky letter. I certainly did mean 300 exile Cubans in 1960.

As for the "1500 men in Guatemala" they had the ships bound for Cuba at sea BEFORE JFK had made the decision that they could land in Cuba. They crowded him all the way and then "his own" McGeorge Bundy blew the whole thing by directing Gen Cabell not to launch the B-26's from Nicaragua on the morning of April 17th. That was it! Read the book "Zapata." Says it all.

Now to your recent letter re the Letter to the POST about Oliver North. You are correct. Reagan wanted some Hostages out. The Secord Enterprise was selling arms to Iran. "The Secret Team" was able to get a few Hostages out. When this hit the public there were two big errors: exchanging arms for hostages is illegal, selling arms to the Iranians was illegal. Meese saved the day with a masterful diversionary scheme. He brought in the totally irrelevant game of "arms money to the Contras."

This jerked the heads of the Newsmen around and totally disoriented the Congressional Hearings.

Since then the charge has been the Iran-Contra Affair and Iranian Money to the Contras. We don't create cash accounts for the forces we assist covertly. We never had a Brigade account for the Cubans. We never had a cash account for the Indonesian Rebels in 1958. We never had a cash account for the Dalai Lama to get him out of Tibet in 1959. All this is wild scenario made up by that crafty bird Meese.

It is my belief that we sold many, many billions of dollars of arms to the Iranians...illegally. I know one man who himself sold $100,000,000 arms to Iran at that time. The Iran-Iraq war cost the Iraqis $60 billion. It had to cost the Iranians more and all of their major arms were American. They had to get all that from the USA...covertly. An ideal "Enterprise" set-up.

You are correct about the Meese FBI statement. When has the law ever stopped the FBI...ever?

Your letters are great. Thank you. I hope you feel well. I get up and around but somewhat in low key. Age tells.

As ever,

Fletch

L. Fletcher Prouty